



ZIMRIGHTS PRESS CONFERENCE ON POST-ELECTION VIOLENCE

30 APRIL 2008

The following report is aimed at showing the violence, destruction of property and displacements of people happening in the areas visited by ZimRights following reports by its members. The reports were collected in Marondera urban, Pfungwe, Mutoko, Driefontein Mission near Mvuma and Harare.

Marondera

At least five houses were stoned in the Cherutombo high density suburb of Marondera on Saturday the 13th of April by suspected ruling party youths that are camped at two houses in the same area. These houses include House Numbers 1425, 3096 and 3097. These houses belong to MDC members.



The owner of the above house had not reported the case to the police. She was encouraged to do so and we are still to establish if she has done so.



Two youths residing at the above house said that they reported their case to some police details who were patrolling at a shopping centre near their house. The police details are said to have promised them that they would investigate.

A couple residing at House Number 3086 Mhukahuru Road close to the young men was assaulted by a group of Zanu PF youths. The wife explained that on that Saturday they had been warming themselves by a fire around 7:00 PM when the perpetrators, one of whom was identified as Mususa, who were wearing Zanu PF T-shirts came and started to assault them, starting with the husband. They were assaulted with a chain. The wife sustained bruises when she fell after attempting to jump over a pile of bricks as she was being assaulted. They reported the case to the police (RRB No. 04/08) and were advised to seek treatment and to produce a medical report. (See picture below)



It is reported that the youths doing all this, some of whom have since been arrested, are camped at House Numbers 1132 and 2263 in the same suburb.

Pfungwe

Nearly 20 families of opposition supporters in Pondoro Village, which is in Ward 2 of Pfungwe rural area woke up during the night of 16 April to find their houses blazing after being allegedly petrol-bombed by mobs of Zanu PF supporters. The families included the losing Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) candidate for the area, Mr. Chimunhu and the opposition party's Election Director for the Maramba-Pfungwe constituency, Mr. Levy Chiodza.



Levy's main house was extensively damaged in a suspected petrol-bomb attack (see more pictures below)





At Mr Chimunhu's homestead, there is only a young man staying there after all other members of the family have fled to Harare. Mr Chimunhu reports that violence and intimidation started on the 8th of April.

The matter was reported to the police under Case No. RRB No 851208 and the investigating officer is Nyahwema. No arrests have been made as yet.

Mr Chimunhu estimates that a group of about two hundred persons are involved in the violence. The following are the people he was able to identify: Christopher Mashoko, Oswel Kasakura, Dovshal Mutekede, Raphael Chimunhu, Aleck Mbofana and Aleck Chiumbi.



One of Mr Chimunhu's houses was reduced to a pile of rubble

All the property, both movable and immovable were destroyed and that includes three round huts and one 3-roomed house.

On 16 April 2008, one Fadzai Pasipanodya also of the same area got information from his brother to the effect that his house had been set ablaze by Zanu PF supporters. He had left the area when he got wind that Zanu PF supporters were after him.

At the time of the report the matter had not been reported to the police.

More photos from Pfungwe



Driefontein Catholic Mission

About five people are reported to have been assaulted at Driefontein Mission near Mvuma. They were accused of supporting the opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). Their assailants are reported to be Zanu Pf youths who were camped near the mission and who were said to be trained by one Zanu PF activist named Mhindo who was reported to claim to be a war veteran.

Below is the outside door to the house of one Magurupira. He initially refused to come out but later decided to do so after the youths threatened to burn him out. He was assaulted with an axe, logs and stones.



Magurupira was released and he managed to go to the hospital where he was immediately admitted. Below are the picture of the injuries he sustained.



On the same day one Mrs Muzhingi and one Leonard who had been an MDC polling agent during the March 29 elections.





Westlea, Harare

Around 2:00 AM on Thursday 17 April 2008, a group of soldiers came into Club M5 in Westlea near Warren Park and ordered the DJ to switch off the music. All the people in the night club were ordered to surrender their mobile phones and other personal effects such as handbags and wallets, and then commanded to lie down on their tummies. For the next three hours they were beaten up. The soldiers used the butts of their guns to randomly assault their victims. The victims included a patrons, staff and a dancing group called Malaika (see photos below).

The soldiers allegedly wore hoods over their helmets to cover their faces. They accused the people of supporting the opposition Movement for Democratic Change and celebrating their victory in the March 29 elections. The soldiers accused the people of selling the country to the West. Ladies were beaten more than the men. Because they were skimpily dressed the dance group was accused of being in the process of making pornographic material for use to please the whites.

The matter was not reported as most of the people there thought they would not get much help from the police which they consider partisan.





ZimRights, therefore, urges the authorities to nip the problem of violence in the bud and to do so without fear or favour.